



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS from Fire Fighters

1750 NEW YORK AVE NW WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 • WWW.IAFF.ORG

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Contact: Jeff Zack
202 824-1506

Mayor Riley's Decision to Release Report In the Best Interest of Charleston

Washington – International Association of Fire Fighters General President Harold Schaitberger issued this statement today about the decision of Charleston Mayor Joe Riley to move forward with the release of the Phase II report of the Fire Review Team.

“The IAFF and our members in Charleston offer a thank you to Mayor Riley today for his decision to release the Phase II report of the Fire Review Team.

“That report is badly needed by our Local 61 members and the families of the fallen to make the necessary changes within the Charleston Fire Department and to let the healing continue for the entire community.

“Over the past two days, I have had some in-depth conversations with Mayor Riley, and I found in those very frank yet respectful discussions that he is a man who really listens to all sides of an argument, because he truly cares about the well-being of the City of Charleston and its great citizens and fire fighters.

“Mayor Joe Riley showed today that he is an uncommon man among elected officials. In my almost 40 years of work in the political world, it is rare to find a politician at any level who has the self-confidence to listen to all opinions, to honestly reflect on what's in the best interests of those he represents, and to reassess a publicly announced decision regarding a high profile, emotionally charged issue.

“This union, at every level, looks forward to continuing the dialogue that has begun. For our part, we pledge to work in partnership with Mayor Riley where appropriate, to improve the safety and lives of Charleston's fire fighters and to make the City safer for everyone.”

The IAFF is the world's largest fire fighters union, representing 288,000 fire fighters and emergency medical professionals across the United States and Canada.

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